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REPUBLICAN PRIORITIES ARE NOT
WITH AMERICAN FAMILIES

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, the disparity between the wealthiest Americans and the poorest continues to grow fostered by the failed economic policies of this Republican administration and Congress. Despite huge cost-of-living increases and gas prices, health care, and higher education, Americans who work full time at a minimum wage job have not received a pay raise in over 9 years.

While these hardworking Americans struggle to support their families on just \$10,700 per year, Republicans in this body are fighting to give millionaires and huge corporations tax breaks. They have even taken their misguided priorities to a new level. After voting in committee to allow a modest increase in the minimum wage, now they don't want to bring it to the House for a vote.

Democrats plan to hold a vote on the minimum wage later today because we believe that expanding economic opportunity to 7 million Americans who have been ignored should be a priority. Republicans, please make this a priority.

DOMESTIC ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

(Mr. GINGREY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, as we head into the 4th of July holiday, millions of Americans will feel the pinch of high gasoline prices as they travel to see family and friends. We are watching gas prices climb higher and higher, and it has become readily apparent that America is too dependent on foreign crude oil.

Earlier this year, the House passed legislation to allow drilling in a tiny portion of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge of this frozen tundra of Alaska's north slope. Despite the fact that oil from ANWR could supply my State of Georgia's energy needs for 54 years and that drilling would be conducted under the strictest environmental standards, many Democrats still oppose this legislation.

This week, we have another chance to support domestic energy production when we vote on legislation to use America's massive energy resources in the deep seas on the Outer Continental Shelf. The bipartisan legislation is one way we can start weaning America off our foreign oil dependency.

Madam Speaker, the American people are tired of paying high prices at the pump. They demand action, and this Republican majority is delivering. I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting the

development of domestic energy sources.

TRIBUTE TO ALBERTO V.
SANCHEZ, JR.

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I lost a constituent this last week in Iraq. Staff Sergeant Alberto V. Sanchez, Jr., had planned to celebrate his fifth wedding anniversary next month while on leave from Iraq. "It takes a piece of my heart," his mother, Olga Sanchez, said in Houston, through tears. "Nothing we can say or do will ever bring him back."

Sanchez, 33, a Milby High School graduate, died Saturday from wounds he suffered when an improvised explosive device detonated near his vehicle in Balad, about 50 miles north of Baghdad.

Sanchez was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 68th Armor Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry out of Fort Carson. Alberto Sanchez chose the Army so he could earn money for college tuition, but the military became his career. He chose to be in the Army, and his mother, Olga Sanchez, said he always said, "This is just a job. I've got to do what I've got to do."

His parents, Alberto, Sr., and Olga Sanchez, moved to Houston from Reynosa, Mexico, when their son was an infant. The family is in disbelief. Mrs. Sanchez and the other adult children said, "We never felt worried," his mother said. "If he felt worried, he never showed it. Like I said, all the pictures we have of him, he always had a big smile."

Madam Speaker, I ask for a moment of silence to celebrate this American hero, Alberto Sanchez, Jr.

CONDEMNING LEAKS OF
NATIONAL SECURITY SECRETS

(Ms. HARRIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. HARRIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express outrage and disgust over United States officials who continue to leak national security secrets during wartime.

Most recently, someone leaked information to the media regarding the SWIFT program, which tracks financial transactions of al Qaeda associates.

Someone in the United States Government is subverting the war on terror, thereby putting our troops at greater risk and, in essence, prolonging the war.

Americans have the right to know who this person is and what their intentions are. In the words of the New York Times, it is "in the public's best interest to know."

I have introduced a resolution expressing that U.S. officials who leak sensitive information of national security secrets should be vigorously investigated and, if need be, brought to justice. If after a thorough investigation these officials are found to be disloyal to our country, they should be tried for treasonous acts.

While al Qaeda and the terrorists may appreciate these leaks, Americans certainly do not.

SUCCESS WITH TROOPS ON THE
BORDER

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, sending troops to control our borders has already proven to be successful. Instead of being buried on page eight, this should be front-page news. The press should know that the story is no longer about what is happening here in Congress, but what is happening at the border.

During the first 10 days of June, total detentions of illegal aliens declined by 21 percent compared to the same period a year ago. That is pretty good for just 55 National Guard troops who didn't arrive on the border until June 3.

While the National Guard is certainly not the final answer, their presence clearly demonstrates that added resources on the border is pivotal to controlling our illegal immigration emergency. Strong enforcement decreases the influx of illegal aliens. Promises of amnesty only encourage illegals to storm our borders in greater numbers.

Madam Speaker, our laws must be taken seriously by both those who would violate them and those charged with their enforcement. Thanks to our National Guard troops for their vital work in bringing order out of chaos.

FREEDOM ISN'T FREE

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, you know, "freedom isn't free" is a saying that we hear a lot. Sometimes we think it is a little bit trite. But I will tell you, Madam Speaker, this weekend I have seen the embodiment of that phrase, as I have met in Iraq with some of our 101st Airborne troops and our National Guard men and women. They understand their mission, they are dedicated, and yes, indeed, they are getting the job done.

I have also seen the embodiment of that phrase this weekend as I have met with some of the Iraqi parliamentarians. I joined three of my colleagues there. We were led by Congresswoman KAY GRANGER, who did a masterful job in continuing to mentor some of the Iraqi women parliamentarians. We